

**To:** R6 Daily News MailList[R6\_DailyNewsML@epa.gov]  
**From:** Hubbard, Joseph  
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**Subject:** Daily News Digest, Tuesday, Jan. 5  
[Daily News Digest 01052016.pdf](#)

## **1 'We're not slowing down in the year ahead' -- EPA chief, Greenwire, 1/4/2016**

<http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/2016/01/04/stories/1060030071>

U.S. EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy today outlined an aggressive climate change agenda for her agency in the new year. Among the agency's priorities for 2016: EPA will finalize greenhouse gas rules for heavy-duty vehicles and contentious methane curbs for the oil and gas industry. The agency will also identify substitutes for short-lived climate pollutants as nations work to craft an amendment to the Montreal Protocol, McCarthy said.

## **2 — Talking Texas agriculture on Capitol Hill, Star-Telegram, 1/4/2016**

<http://www.star-telegram.com/opinion/opn-columns-blogs/other-voices/article53010490.html>

When people ask what I see as the greatest threat to Texas agriculture, my answer is simple — a heavy-handed federal government that hinders the growth of the industry and our entire economy. The men and women who work the land to provide our food and fiber deserve a seat at the table in Washington, D.C.

## **3 — Texas, Business Community Join Fight Against Ozone Rule, Heartland, 1/4/2016**

<http://news.heartland.org/newspaper-article/2016/01/05/texas-business-community-join-fight-against-ozone-rule>

In late December, Texas has filed a lawsuit challenging the Obama administration's new, stricter ozone regulations. Texas's suit just beat the Christmas deadline to file challenges to the rule and brings the final number of states challenging it to nine. States previously filing suits against the ozone rule include Arizona, Arkansas, Kentucky, New Mexico, Oklahoma, North Dakota, Utah and Wisconsin.

## **4 — TCEQ investigating deadly explosion, evacuated residents speak out, News West 9, 1/4/16**

<http://www.newswest9.com/story/30883057/tceq-investigating-deadly-explosion-in-midland->

evacuated-residents-speak-out

A 23-year-old worker was killed Monday morning in a fiery explosion at a Water Rescue Services facility in the 2500 block of North County Road 1140, officials said. The victim was later identified as Water Rescue Services employee Julian Gallardo, according to the Midland County Sheriff's Office.

**5 — Okla. scales back injection after quakes near state capital, E&E News, 1/5/2016**

<http://www.eenews.net/energywire/2016/01/05/stories/1060030112>

Oklahoma officials yesterday reacted to two relatively large earthquakes just north of Oklahoma City last week by asking the owners of nearby oil and gas wastewater disposal wells to scale back operations. The Oklahoma Corporation Commission (OCC) directed the owners of five wells within 5 miles of the quakes to reduce the volume of wastewater they're injecting by 25 to 50 percent.

**6 — State bans driving, walking on Mississippi, Atchafalaya river levees during high water, Times Picayune, 1/4/2016**

[http://www.nola.com/environment/index.ssf/2016/01/state\\_bans\\_driving\\_walking\\_on.html#incart\\_most\\_shared-environment](http://www.nola.com/environment/index.ssf/2016/01/state_bans_driving_walking_on.html#incart_most_shared-environment)

The state Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority announced Monday (Jan. 4) it has banned all vehicle and foot traffic on levees along the Mississippi and Atchafalaya rivers until further notice, in response to high water levels in both rivers.

**7 — Earthquakes shake out data showing unknown fault line in Edmond area, NewOK, 1/1/2016**

[http://newsok.com/earthquakes-shake-out-data-showing-unknown-fault-line-in-edmond-area/article/5470002?custom\\_click=columnist](http://newsok.com/earthquakes-shake-out-data-showing-unknown-fault-line-in-edmond-area/article/5470002?custom_click=columnist)

The swarm of earthquakes that rattled Edmond this week reveal a previously unknown fault line and could signal additional shaking in the area, according to seismologist Daniel McNamara. The research geophysicist at the U.S. Geological Survey's Geologic Hazards Science Center in Golden, Colo., has been studying the state's ongoing earthquake swarm.

## **8 — EPA allows more time for input on ozone-related rulemakings, Greenwire, 1/4/2016**

<http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/2016/01/04/stories/1060030064>

U.S. EPA has extended the public comment periods for two rulemakings with implications for ozone regulation.

In separate Federal Register notices published last week, EPA said it is pushing back the comment deadline for its proposed Cross-State Air Pollution Rule update from Jan. 19 until Feb. 1, while the cutoff for feedback on proposed changes to the agency's handling of data related to "exceptional events" is now Feb. 3, instead of Jan. 19.

## **9 — The Year in Disasters: Fracking, Fires and Floods, Observer, 12/28/2016**

<http://www.texasobserver.org/year-in-disasters/>

In a year marked by nigh-on Biblical flooding, out-of-control wildfires and man-made earthquakes, one thing is clear: we're turning the environment against us. Climatologists and other experts note that these cycles of heavy rain and intense drought are linked to climate change, which at this point is undoubtedly human-driven — no matter what billionaire coal miners say. Here's a roundup of the damage our unique combination of human ingenuity and greed did to Texas, our Texas, this year.

## **10 — Los Alamos' mission in question amid management turmoil, Greenwire, 1/4/2016**

<http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/2016/01/04/stories/1060030062>

The Department of Energy said last month that it will seek a new contractor to manage Los Alamos National Laboratory, but the existing group's deal to operate the site may have been in jeopardy since an accident injured nine workers last year. Last month, federal officials said the incident was a "significant failure" on the part of Los Alamos National Security, the consortium that has operated the site for nearly a decade under a \$2.2-billion-a-year contract.

## **11 Bridge Project Prompts 'Buyout' of Corpus Christi Neighborhood, Observer, 12/30/2016**

<http://www.texasobserver.org/hillcrest-buyout-corpus-christi/>

In the end, the bridge that divided also brought justice. In 2012, residents of the long-suffering Hillcrest area, along Corpus Christi's refinery row, learned of a Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) proposal to relocate and rebuild the aging 138-foot-tall Harbor Bridge.

**12 — EPA orders barrier installed to protect nuclear waste from underground fire near St. Louis, LA Times, 1/2/2016**

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/nationnow/la-na-nn-epa-underground-fire-20160102-story.html>

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has ordered the installation of an isolation barrier to make sure that an underground fire does not reach buried nuclear waste at a suburban St. Louis landfill. Mark Hague, EPA regional administrator, who announced the move Thursday, said the plan for West Lake Landfill in Bridgeton also calls for additional engineering steps, such as cooling loops.